

## ▼ Gay National News ▼

Jude, NGLTF Legislative Director. "This report provides individuals and organizations with useful information on lobbying their Senators and representatives on critical legislation before Congress.

Copies of the report may be ordered by sending \$1.00 to NGLTF, Federal Legislative Report, 1517 U Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

### Gay /Lesbian Ads Blanket Maine; 15 Papers Refuse

Portland, ME: During the week of June 1, 1989, thirty-two Maine newspapers carried ads from Our Paper, a gay/lesbian newspaper, offering subscription information and a free sample.

Fifteen papers, including the Bangor Daily News and the Lewiston Sun, refused the pre-paid ads and returned them to Our Paper without explanation.

Despite the refusals from the newspapers, Our Paper received over three hundred individual requests for subscription information.

### Georgia Heterosexual Sodomy Conviction Challenged

Georgia attorneys are challenging the conviction and jailing of an Atlanta-area man on charges resulting from private and consensual sodomy with his wife. A petition for a writ of habeas corpus was filed in DeKalb Superior Court on July 28 to overturn the man's two-year jail sentence. The petition argues that the conviction under the 156-year old law violates the man's right to privacy and that the law is vague and overly broad. Winning Moseley's release from jail does not preclude a legal challenge to the Georgia sodomy law based on his case.

James Moseley was accused by his wife, from whom he was being divorced, of rape and aggravated oral and anal sodomy. On May 12, 1988, a jury found him innocent on all counts of coerced sex, but convicted him of sodomy because Moseley testified that he had engaged in consensual oral sex with his wife. The Judge instructed

the jury that Moseley's admission gave them the option of considering the consensual sodomy charge. The jury returned with a verdict of guilty and Moseley was sentenced to five years in jail. Moseley, eligible for parole after two years, has served 17 months.

Moseley's case has received extensive coverage in the non-gay press in Atlanta and around the state. Georgia Attorney General Michael Bowers, who argued to uphold the sodomy law in Bowers v. Hardwick, has said that "the law would have serious constitutional problems were it to be applied to a married couple."

In the wake of the Moseley case, Georgia gay and lesbian activists are considering a legislative repeal strategy to strike the law from the books.

### Federal Appeals Court Rejects Army Lesbian

In the latest development in lesbian Miriam Ben-Shalom's 13-year battle to re-enlist in the U.S. Army Reserves, the U.S. Federal Court of Appeals ruled that the Army is not required to re-enlist Ben-Shalom. Justifying its decision in part on the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Bowers v. Hardwick, in which the Court held that states could regulate the rights of gay people to engage in private, adult, consensual sexual behavior, the court in Ben-Shalom upheld the Army's regulation discharging persons who "engage in homosexual conduct, or who by their statements demonstrate a propensity to engage in homosexual conduct."

Sue Hyde, Director of the Privacy Project of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), and organizer of the Gay & Lesbian Military Freedom Project Coalition, condemned the court's decision. "The damage Hardwick did to the lives of gay men and lesbians continues to become clear with each new case. In Ben-Shalom, the 7th Circuit extends the dangerous logic of Hardwick to say it's o.k. to be gay, o.k. to say you're gay and you favor gay rights, but that it's not o.k. to act on one's sexual

orientation, not o.k. to live our lives fully, without experiencing discrimination."

Hyde noted that the Gay & Lesbian Military Freedom Project Coalition, which NGLTF spearheads, will continue to pursue a Congressional strategy to overturn the anti-gay/lesbian military policy. Hyde also noted NGLTF's plans to hold a Military Freedom demonstration at the White House on November 10. For more information write Gay & Lesbian Military Freedom Project c/o National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, 1517 U Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. (202) 332-6483.

### DHHS Report Calls for Action Against Lesbian/Gay Youth Suicide

A report just released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Task Force on Youth Suicide acknowledges that lesbian and gay youth are at increased risk for suicide and calls for "an end [to] discrimination against youths on the basis of such characteristics as disability, sexual orientation, and financial status."

"According to research discussed in the DHHS report, suicide is the leading cause of death among lesbian, gay, and other sexual minority youth," said Kevin Berrill, Director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Anti-Violence Project. "The increased risk of suicide facing these youth is linked to growing up in a society that teaches them to hide and to hate themselves. We welcome this report and hope it will lead to action that will save lives."

Copies of the 4-volume report of the DHHS Secretary's Task Force on Youth  
(Continued on page 13)

### Partners in Recovery and Growth, Therapist Erica Marks, B.A.S.A.C.

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